

REMARKS

In the amendments above, Claims 1, 7, 11, 17 and 21 have been amended, Claims 2 to 4, 6, 8, 9, 12 to 14, 16, 18 and 19 have been cancelled, and new Claims 23 to 26 have been added, to more particularly point out and distinctly claim Applicants' invention. The subject matter of Claims 6, 7, 16, and 17 has been incorporated into Claims 1, 11, and 21, respectively.

The specification has been objected to, and Claims 1 to 22 have been rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 112, first paragraph, for failing to comply with the enablement requirement. The Examiner's attention is directed to the amendments above, wherein the claims have been limited to certain embodiments. Applicants submit that said embodiments, namely, the use of laser or thermal energy, are sufficiently described as to be enabling. The Examiner's attention is directed to, for example, paragraphs 9 to 11 on page 4 of the specification.

In the Office Action, various groupings of the original claims were rejected under 35 U.S.C. § 102 (b) or (e) as being anticipated by the Witt, Kennedy et al., Miller, or Castronovo patent. The Examiner's attention is again directed to the amendments above wherein the claims are now directed to the subject matter of dependent Claims 6, 7, 16, and 17 that was not rejected as being unpatentable over the prior art.

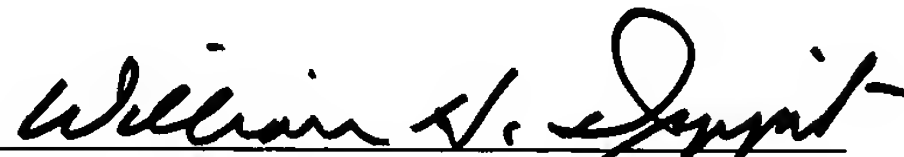
In view of the amendments to the claims, it is believe that the prior art rejections have been overcome.

Should the claims herein be allowable but for matters that could be the subject of either a supplemental submission by Applicants or an Examiner's Amendment, Applicants would appreciate the Examiner contacting Applicants' undersigned attorney by telephone.

Reconsideration and allowance of all the claims herein are respectfully requested.

Respectfully submitted

January 27, 2005


William H. Dippert
Registration No. 26,723

REED SMITH LLP
599 Lexington Avenue
29th Floor
New York, New York 10022
Tel.: (212) 521-5400; Fax: (212) 521-5450